

consider this amendment seriously and tack it onto the bill. In fact, in the long run I think it would make it even more difficult to meaningfully administer it. I think based on what Senator Moore and Senator Schmit have previously said, I think we would put people even more at risk having this kind of a unit of government attached to the bill. So I would strongly urge you to oppose the Schmit amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Pappas, your light is on again.

SENATOR PAPPAS: I call the question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: There is only one other light on. May I proceed to Senator Landis? His light just went off. No lights on, it is not necessary. Senator Schmit, would you care to close?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. President, I would be glad to close. First, I would just like to say this, I was assured, by Mr. Mills who represents the counties, that he felt that the rural fire districts could be handled through the county officials organization. I wanted to be certain, by the insertion of these three words "rural fire district", that there was no doubt in our minds but that they could be encompassed in the program. It may be that they will be a part of the.... I hope that you are listening. It may be that they must be a part of the county officials program, that they cannot, in fact, pool by themselves. But I did want it known that this Legislature considered their problem. Let me assure those of you, Senator Landis and Senator Lynch, who are not familiar that the rural fire districts have the same kind of problems as do the other entities which you are trying to protect. Let me also assure you that they have limited resources. Let me also assure you, that if it came right down to it, they probably could go out and raise the money voluntarily to take care of their problem more rapidly than could any other entity. But I do believe that the rural fire districts.... Again, I want to emphasize, rural fire districts are a unique government entity. They draw no salary, they pay their own expenses. They get no accolades and they are out usually working under adverse conditions, when no one is around to see them, once or twice a year we have a soup supper and honor the rural fire district, and that is about the extent of their accolade. I think that we have reached a point also with the rural fire districts where they are at least entitled to the same kind of protection as we want to afford to those